

In this issue

Editorial

TamCGPH at glance

Summary of TamCGPH research activities

- *Erasmus+ Global Mobility program by PIs*
- *Horizon Europe consortium project applications by PIs*
- *Doctoral dissertation completed*
- *Research visits*

Education and Training

- *New student intake in IPPE*
- *New student intake in PGH*

Publications

EDITORIAL

A New Era for Global Public Health at Tampere University

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Tampere Centre for Global Public Health (TamCGPH), Finland's first academic hub dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary global health research, education, and policy. At a time when global health challenges demand urgent, collaborative solutions, the center brings together experts from epidemiology, global health and policies, behavioral sciences, and social determinants of health. With active research and training projects in more than 20 countries and strong ties to the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre, TamCGPH will highlight and strengthen Tampere University's global health profile and impact.

Our mission is rooted in three pillars: strengthening interdisciplinary research, delivering high-quality international education, and building sustainable networks that translate science into action. We are training the next generation of public health leaders through our flagship educational programmes, the International Doctoral Programme in Epidemiology and Public Health (IPPE) and the Public and Global Health (PGH) master's programme. Our research groups are tackling pressing issues from maternal and child health to preparing and responding to infectious disease threats, climate-related health risks, and health equity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Our research is supported by international and domestic funding agencies such as the Gates Foundation, Horizon Europe, and the Research Council of Finland.

TamCGPH is more than a research center; it is a catalyst for change. By fostering inclusive excellence, open science, and responsible global partnerships, we aim to shape health policy, empower communities, and strengthen research capacity where it is most needed. We look forward to sharing our public health journey with you through this newsletter.

We wish a Happy and productive new year 2026!

31, January 2026

Pekka Nuorti
Professor, Director

Subas Neupane
University Lecturer, Deputy Director

TamCGPH at glance

Established: June 2025

Faculty: Social Sciences (SOC)

Website: <https://www.tuni.fi/en/research/center-global-public-health-research-and-training>

TamCGPH Board

Prof. Pekka Nuorti, SOC (Director)

University Lecturer Subas Neupane, SOC (Deputy director)

Prof. Pilvikki Absetz, SOC

Prof. Meri Koivusalo, SOC

Prof. Salla Atkins, SOC

University Lecturer Tarja Kinnunen, SOC

Senior Research Fellow Ulla Ashorn, MET

Summary of TamCGPH research activities

Erasmus+ Mobility projects

Subas Neupane received funding for Erasmus+ Global mobility for Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana with Associate Professor Arti Singh for 2025-2028.

The primary goal of this mobility project is to foster collaboration in teaching and research between Tampere University and KNUST. This initiative aims to promote staff and PhD researcher exchange between the two institutions for their mutual benefit.

Mobility of one staff visit from each institute for a week and one PhD researcher mobility from each institute for an exchange study and research for three months.

Funding proposals submitted from The Centre to Horizon Europe

Seven consortium proposals to Horizon Europe were submitted by the PIs of TamCGPH. Three are led by Tampere University as the coordinator, highlighting its recognized expertise and capacity to manage large-scale, consortia-driven projects. In these roles, TAU researchers would steer international partnerships, driving scientific vision and project execution. The

remaining four projects see TAU participating as a key partner, contributing its specialized knowledge in health promotion, and epidemiology, and health technology to consortia spearheaded by other leading European institutions. This balanced portfolio of coordinator and partner roles illustrates the Centre's integral and versatile position within the European research ecosystem.

This concerted effort not only seeks substantial resources to advance vital research but also strengthens Tampere University's network and reputation as a hub for global public health innovation.

Figures crossed for positive outcomes on all applications!

Doctoral dissertation completed in 2025

IPPE

1. **Saheed Gidado (epidemiology)**, 2nd December 2025.
Dissertation title "Enhancing Disease Surveillance and Response among Internally Displaced Persons in Complex Humanitarian Emergency Context, Northeast Nigeria"
Supervisors: Professor Salla Atkins and Professor Pekka Nuorti
Link to dissertation: <https://trepo.tuni.fi/handle/10024/231373>
2. **Lieve Vanleeuw (Global Health)**, 11th June 2025
Dissertation title "Beyond the illness: How tuberculosis affects households in South Africa"
Supervisors: Professor Salla Atkins, Dr. Wanga Zembe-Mkabile, and Professor Emerita Anneli Milén
Link to dissertation: <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-03-3937-1>
3. **Swapna Deshpande (Epidemiology)**, 14th March 2025.
Dissertation title "Height, weight, gestational weight gain, and their impact on gestational diabetes and neonatal outcomes among women in India"
Supervisors: Docent Tarja Kinnunen, and Professor Sangita Kulathinal
Link to dissertation: <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-03-3812-1>
4. **Anyia Cushnie (Epidemiology)**, 28th February 2025
Dissertation title "Assessing HIV treatment outcomes for Jamaica before and after universal testing and treatment: Analysis of the national HIV treatment services information system"
Supervisors: Professor Miia Artama, Professor Ralf Reintjes, and Professor Peter Figueroa
Link to dissertation: <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-03-3761-2>

Research visits

Strengthening Global Partnerships

In August 2025, we were delighted to host Professor David Doku, Director of the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Consultancy (DRIC) at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, for a productive week-long visit to the Unit of Health Sciences and the Centre for Global Public Health (CGPH).

The visit was facilitated through the Erasmus+ Global Mobility programme, grants awarded to University Lecturer Subas Neupane in 2023 and 2024, underscoring our commitment to international academic exchange.

During his stay, Prof. Doku generously shared his experience with our new master's degree students as part of their orientation, offering valuable international perspectives on careers in public health and research.

A key meeting was held with CGPH Director, Professor Pekka Nuorti, and Deputy Director, University Lecturer Subas Neupane. The discussions focused on concrete ways to strengthen research collaboration between our institutions, exploring potential joint projects and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

This visit marks a significant step in deepening our collaborative ties with the University of Cape Coast and advancing our shared mission in global public health research and training.



Pic taken by N/K

Strengthening Nutrition Education and Research Capacity in Universities in Nepal (NERC) – visits to Nepal in 2025

Tampere University is collaborating with Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal on a project that focuses on strengthening nutrition education and research capacity in Nepal. Tarja Kinnunen, the project leader, visited the partner university in Kathmandu twice in 2025- News and updates about the project can be found on the project website: <https://www.tuni.fi/en/research/strengthening-nutrition-education-and-research-capacity-universities-nepal-nerc>

Education and Training

International Doctoral Programme in Epidemiology and Public Health (IPPE)

The International PhD Programme in Epidemiology and Public Health (IPPE) is dedicated to a crucial global mission: increasing knowledge of major public health problems and building sustainable health capacity in low- and middle-income countries. By collaborating with partners worldwide, the programme trains epidemiologists and public health professionals for leadership roles in research, policy, and administration.

This year IPPE welcomed the newest cohort of 9 talented students from 9 different countries. Their doctoral research spans a diverse range of disciplines, including Epidemiology, Global Health, Health Economics, and Health Promotion, reflecting the programme's comprehensive approach to tackling complex health challenges.



Picture taken by: N/K

International Master's Degree Programme in Public and Global Health (PGH)

The international Master's Programme in Public and Global Health (PGH) at Tampere University equips students with the knowledge and skills to tackle contemporary health challenges. By integrating health and social sciences, the programme provides a thorough grounding in key disciplines like epidemiology, health policy, and global health governance. Students can tailor their studies to areas of personal interest, such as the social determinants of health or sustainable food systems.

This year, the programme's vibrant, multicultural community has grown with the arrival of 17 new students from 8 different countries for the 2025-2027 intake. The curriculum emphasizes practical experience and global networking, including opportunities for internships and international study trips. Upon completing the 120-ECTS programme, students earn a Master of Health Sciences degree, ready to work as future global health experts.



Picture taken by David Doku

Research output (Scientific publications from 2025)

1. Roponen J, Virtanen JK, Partonen T, Absetz P, Hantunen S, Tuomainen TP, Nuutinen O, Tolmunen T, Ruusunen A. Adherence to a healthy Nordic diet is associated with a lower prevalence of depressive symptoms. *British Journal of Nutrition*. 2025 Jul;134(1):79-85.
2. Nosraty L, Turunen E, Kyrönlahti S, Nygård CH, Kc P, Neupane S. Application of GUHA data mining method in cohort data to explore paths associated with premature death: a 29-year follow-up study. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*. 2025 Jan 27;25(1):20.
3. Vähätalo L, Siukola A, Nurmi H, Hakulinen H, Pesonen S, Reho T, Atkins S, Sumanen M, Sauni R. Argumentoiva Delfoi-menetelmä tulevaisuuden tutkimusmenetelmänä–Työterveyshuollon yhteistyö muiden terveydenhuollon sektoreiden ja työpaikkojen kanssa vuonna 2030. *Hallinnon Tutkimus*. 2025 Mar 17;44(1).
4. Taylor E, Airaksinen M, Ihamuotila R, Kivelä M, Ashorn U, Haataja LM, Mangani C, Vanhatalo S. Assessing motor development with wearables in low-resource settings: feasibility in rural Malawi. *Pediatric research*. 2025 Mar 3:1-7.
5. Deshpande S, Kinnunen TI, Mandlik R, Khadilkar A, Oti S, Kulathinal S. Association of Gestational Weight Trajectories With Neonatal Outcomes Among Pregnant Slum-Dwelling Women, India. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*. 2025 Jul;21(3):e13805.
6. Tanjung K, KC P, Kyrönlahti S, Goldberg M, Nygård CH, Neupane S. Associations of psychosocial and physical work demands with all-cause mortality: a pooled analysis of prospective cohort studies. *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 2025 Jun;54(3):dyaf045.
7. Absetz P, Kwasnicka D, Oldenburg B. Cross-cultural health psychology: Balancing fidelity and the cultural applicability of behavior change science to improve health in low-and middle-income countries.

8. Hankonen N, Haukkala A, Palsola M, Heino MT, Sund R, Tokola K, Absetz P, Araújo-Soares V, Sniehotta FF, Borodulin K, Uutela A. Effectiveness of the Let's Move It multi-level vocational school-based intervention on physical activity and sedentary behavior: a cluster randomized trial. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*. 2025;59(1):kaaf023.
9. Paudel NR, KC P, Nygård CH, Neupane S. Effect of a mindfulness-based cognitive behavior therapy intervention on occupational burnout among school teachers. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. 2025 Jan 24;15:1496205.
10. Liu E, Partap U, Shinde S, Wang D, Costa JC, Cliffer IR, Wang M, Nookala SK, Subramoney V, Briggs B, Hamer DH. Effect of intermittent preventive treatment during pregnancy with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine on maternal gestational weight gain in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review and individual participant data meta-analysis of randomised clinical trials. *EClinicalMedicine*. 2025 Jun 1;84.
11. Turner M, Ashtree DN, Lane MM, Anastasiou K, Hadjidakou M, Dawson SL, Lawrence M, Jennings L, Geyik O, Jacka FN, Versace VL. Environmental co-benefits of a Mediterranean-style dietary intervention for reducing depressive symptoms in adults: results from the Curbing Anxiety and Depression using Lifestyle Medicine randomised controlled trial. *British Journal of Nutrition*. 2025 Jul;134(2):115-23.
12. Videman K, Ashorn U, Ashorn P, Hallamaa L, Maleta K, Mangani C, Leppänen JM. Eye-tracking measures of oculomotor speed and control as markers of cognitive ability in Malawian adolescent population: Secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial. *PLOS Global Public Health*. 2025 Jul 28;5(7):e0004811.
13. Anyango RO, Nyawanda BO, Onyando BO, Haidara FC, Okello C, Orege IK, Ogolla S, Ogwel B, Awuor AO, Kadivane S, Ngere P. et al Factors associated with laboratory-confirmed SARS-Cov-2 infection among patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI): Findings from the COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness evaluation in Kenya and Mali, 2022–2023. *Vaccine*. 2025 May 13:127234.
14. Onyando BO, Nyawanda BO, Onguru D, Haidara FC, Okello C, Anyango RO, Orege IK, Ogolla S, Ogwel B, Awuor AO, Kadivane S. et al Factors associated with mortality among patients aged 12 years and above requiring hospitalization for severe respiratory illness (SRI): Findings from the COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness evaluation in Kenya and Mali, 2022–2023. *Vaccine*. 2025 Mar 1:126910.
15. Lohiniva AL, Lehtinen JM, Arifulla D, Ollgren J, Nuorti P, Lyytikäinen O. Factors influencing healthcare workers' compliance with personal protective equipment guidelines in long-term care during the COVID-19 pandemic—A theory-based mixed-methods study. *PLoS One*. 2025 Apr 29;20(4):e0321851.
16. Roponen J, Ruusunen A, Nuutinen O, Partonen T, Absetz P. Feasibility of a randomised controlled nutrition intervention for depression with a strength-based counselling approach. *British Journal of Nutrition*.:1-32.
17. Hossain M, Haque MA, Faruque AS, Ahmed T, Ashorn U, Ashorn P. Growth monitoring and promotion program services utilization patterns between home-based and facility-based delivery methods: A comparative analysis. *PLoS One*. 2025 Jun 5;20(6):e0324918.
18. Bennett JC, Knoll MD, Kagucia EW, Quesada MG, Zeger SL, Hetrich MK, Yang Y, Herbert C, Ogyu A, Cohen AL, Yildirim I. et al Global impact of ten-valent and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccines on invasive pneumococcal disease in all ages (the PSERENADE project): a global surveillance analysis. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. 2025 Apr 1;25(4):457-70.

19. Quesada MG, Peterson ME, Bennett JC, Hayford K, Zeger SL, Yang Y, Hetrich MK, Feikin DR, Cohen AL, von Gottberg A, van der Linden M. Serotype distribution of remaining invasive pneumococcal disease after extensive use of ten-valent and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (the PSERENADE project): a global surveillance analysis. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. 2025 Apr 1;25(4):445-56.
20. Yang Y, Knoll MD, Herbert C, Bennett JC, Feikin DR, Quesada MG, Hetrich MK, Zeger SL, Kagucia EW, Xiao M, Cohen AL. Global impact of 10-and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccines on pneumococcal meningitis in all ages: The PSERENADE project. *Journal of Infection*. 2025 Mar 1;90(3):106426.
21. Nalugwa T, Annerstedt KS, Nabwire S, West NS, Kadota JL, Atkins S, Cattamanchi A, Lönnroth K, Katamba A, Shete PB. Identifying mechanisms by which social determinants of health impact TB diagnostic evaluation uptake in Uganda: a qualitative study. *International Journal for Equity in Health*. 2025 Dec;24(1):1-0.
22. Sady H, Chaima D, Hallamaa L, Ashorn U, Banda J, Mangani C, Kamwendo J, Maleta K, Ashorn P, Fan YM. Impact of asymptomatic malaria infection on children's growth in rural Malawi. *Scientific Reports*. 2025 Aug 1;15(1):28094.
23. Mäkelä H, Dub T, Nuorti JP, Sane J. Knowledge, attitudes, and practices towards vector-borne diseases in changing climate in Finland. *Epidemiology & Infection*. 2025 Jan;153:e12.
24. Kork A, Linnansaari A, Kettunen P, Absetz P. Kohti vaikuttavia hyvinvointipalveluja–implementaatiota tutkivien tieteenalojen vuoropuhelua tarvitaan sote-uudistuksen tavoitteiden toteutumiseksi. *Sosiaalilääketieteellinen Aikakauslehti*. 2025 May 15;62(2):368-75.
25. Koivusalo M, Kerkelä E, Ollila E. Kuinka kaupalliset toimijat vaikuttavat terveystalouteen? *Suomen Lääkärilehti*. 2025;80(17):1328-31.
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27. Nurmi H, Vähätalo L, Siukola A, Reho T, Atkins S, Sumanen M, Viljamaa M, Sauni R. Potilaiden kokema toimijuus perusterveydenhuollossa toteutetussa työkykykoordinaattoripalvelussa. *Sosiaalilääketieteellinen Aikakauslehti*. 2025 Feb 11;62(1):138-52.
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29. Neupane S, KC P, Nosraty L, Kyrölahti S, Nygård CH, Oakman J. Sickness absence trajectories and retirement pathways among industrial workers. *European Journal of Public Health*. 2025 Jun 26:ckaf104.
30. Prakash KC, Stenholm S, Kyrölahti S, Kulmala J, Tanjung K, Nosraty L, Leino-Arjas P, Goldberg M, Nygård CH, Kivimäki M, Neupane S. Sociodemographic and work-related determinants of self-rated health trajectories: a collaborative meta-analysis of cohort studies from Europe and the US. *Scientific Reports*. 2025 Feb 13;15(1):5394.
31. Shakya S, Absetz P, Neupane S. Socioeconomic inequalities in overweight and obesity among young adult women in Nepal between two cross-sectional surveys in 2001 and 2022. *BMJ open*. 2025 Jul 1;15(7):e094353.
32. Infanti JJ, Omija Korpela J, Stephenson CM, Blystad A, Sørensen JB, Einarssdóttir J, Gebremariam MK, Gunnlaugsson G, Herder T, Koivusalo M, Löve J. Student experiences and perspectives on decolonising global health education: a qualitative

- study across five Nordic countries. *Global Health Action*. 2025 Dec 31;18(1):2512624.
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 34. Pepperrell T, Koivusalo M, Grant L, McCallum A. Transforming trade for vaccine equity: Policy gaps and barriers. *PLOS Global Public Health*. 2025 Jun 16;5(6):e0004012.
 35. Nhassengo P, Atkins S, Nhamuave C, Uanela M, Matusse C, Banze D, Maphossa V, Hirasen K, Ivanova O, Evans D, Lönnroth K. Understanding treatment initiation pathways and associated costs among people with pulmonary tuberculosis in a peri-urban area of Mozambique: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2025 Apr 10;25(1):1335.
 36. Raghavan V, Niemi M, Martens M, De Man J, Åhs J, Melendez-Torres GJ, Mathews F, van Olmen J, Linnansaari A, Laurenzi CA, Absetz P. Youth co-production for sustainable engagement and empowerment in health (YiPEE): protocol for a cluster-randomised controlled trial of an intervention for mental health promotion among adolescents in schools in Chennai, India. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Jun 1;15(6):e095671.